



Fully Integrated Communication Terminal and Equipment

IRIS-3 Executive Summary

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| Authors | : | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje |
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ESTEC Technical Management: R. Weigand

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| imec | IRIS-3 Executive Summary | Do. ref.: Date: Issue: | P50314-IM- DL-019 2005/08/01 2 |
|----------|--|------------------------------|---|
| Authors: | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje | Page 1 of | 9 |

Contacts:

ESA- ESTEC: R. Weigand – Microeletronics Section TEC-EDM

E-Mail: Roland.Weigand[at]esa.int

IMEC : Ch. Van Hoof

E-Mail.: Chris.Vanhoof[at]imec.be

: J. Roggen

E-Mail: Jean.Roggen[at]imec.be

| | IRIS-3 Executive Summary | Do. ref.: | P50314-IM- DL-019 |
|----------|--|-----------|----------------------|
| | | Date: | 2005/08/01 |
| Imec | | Issue: | 2 |
| Authors: | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje | Page 2 of | 9 |

IRIS-3 imager overview



The Integrated Radiation-tolerant Imaging System 3 (IRIS-3) is a CMOS image sensor or camera with full digital interfaces that comply with spacecraft telemetry standards. It is profiled as a general purpose high-quality greyscale imaging component, to be used as a core block for miniature cameras for a wide range of spaceborne applications. These applications include robotics, low-to-medium quality earth and planetary imaging, compact lander and rover cameras, and visual telemetry.

The IRIS-3 offers enhanced functionality such as:

- A choice of on-chip digital I/O interfaces (e.g. RS-485-like, TTC-B-01, parallel, ...)
- Control of a local industry-standard SDRAM buffer for image storage
- Direct interfacing with an external compression engine

In addition to this, the IRIS-3 was developed with radiation tolerance as its target, and meets 30 krad total dose tolerance within specifications, or upto 80 krad with significantly increased supply current. The chip appears immune to latch-up.

The IRIS ASIC comprises a full custom mixed analogue-digital part: the actual pixel array along with its lowest-level timing and control circuitry and an ADC. In addition, there is a cell-based purely digital part: the local controller that drives the pixel array, captures the data from the ADC and interfaces with the outside world.

| | IRIS-3 Executive Summary | Do. ref.: | P50314-IM- DL-019 |
|----------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| imec | | Date: Issue: | 2005/08/01 2 |
| Authors: | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje | Page 3 of | 9 |

IRIS-3 main features:

- 1024x768 pixels
- 10-bit ADC
- On-chip interface & control logic
- On-chip SDRAM controller
- Radiation tolerant

IRIS-3 camera overview



The IRIS-3 Camera is an instrument based on the IRIS-3 chip, providing the functionality of a black-and-white medium-resolution digital still-image camera combined with on-board image storage (64 megawords SDRAM, can store >50 uncompressed full-frame images).

The camera interfaces to a spacecraft using a number of possible standardized digital interfaces (RS-485-like or TTC-B-01), and can employ the CCSDS-ESA packetizing protocol for telecommand and telemetry. The camera operates from a standard 28V DC

| | IRIS-3 Executive Summary | Do. ref.: Date: | P50314-IM- DL-019 2005/08/01 |
|----------|--|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Imec | | Issue: | 2 |
| Authors: | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje | Page 4 of | 9 |

sattelite bus. DC/DC converters and EMI filters are included to produce the needed 5V and 3.3V supply voltages for IRIS-3 imager chip, as well as isolation from the main 28V bus.



Sample image of IMEC buildings taken with IRIS-3

| | IRIS-3 Executive Summary | Do. ref.: | P50314-IM- DL-019 |
|----------|--|-----------|----------------------|
| | | Date: | 2005/08/01 |
| Imec | | Issue: | 2 |
| Authors: | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje | Page 5 of | 9 |

IRIS-3 camera system block diagram

The main blocks of the camera comprise of

- The IRIS-3 image sensor with on-chip ADC and control logic: the end-user interfaces to the camera exclusively through the IRIS-3
- 64MWx16 SDRAM buffer memory to store images.



| | IRIS-3 Executive Summary | Do. ref.: | P50314-IM- DL-019 |
|----------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| imec | | Date: Issue: | 2005/08/01 2 |
| Authors: | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje | Page 6 of | 9 |

IRIS-3 camera system block diagram

IRIS-3 camera qualification

Two flight-standard cameras were built and qualified with functional and environmental tests. The cameras passed the environmental qualification tests, based on the specs of VMC in the Cluster mission:

- Temperature cycling in vacuum: -50°C ... +65°C
- Vibration testing:
 - sinusoidal low frequency: 10mm peak displacement
 - sinusoidal high frequency: 10g acceleration
 - o random vibration: 0.1g²/Hz

Conclusions

As the latest in a series of ESA-funded CMOS active pixel image sensors for space use, IRIS3 is the first to combine rad-hard design techniques and system-level integration of functionality onto a single chip, allowing for smaller and simpler, yet more powerful visual monitoring cameras. The electro-optical specifications were met. The chip is tolerant to 30krad total dose irradiation, and appears immune to latch-up.

Two prototype cameras were built and successfully qualified through environmental and functional testing. These cameras operate from a standard 28V sattelite supply and make use of a new style of housing as compared to the VMC cameras.

| | IRIS-3 Executive Summary | Do. ref.: | P50314-IM- DL-019 |
|----------|--|-----------------|----------------------|
| imec | | Date: Issue: | 2005/08/01 2 |
| Authors: | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje | Page 7 of | 9 |

Appendix: main IRIS-3 specifications

Main IRIS-3 specifications

| format | 1024x768 pixels |
|------------|--|
| pixel size | 15µm x 15µm |
| ADC | 10 bit |
| pixel rate | 12.5MHz |
| frame rate | 12 full frames/s, 40 quarter frames/s etc. |

Electro-optical specifications

| voltage conversion factor | 10.4µV/e- |
|-------------------------------|--|
| quantum efficiency | 25% (including fill factor effects) |
| saturation charge | 120000e- |
| linear region | 85000e- |
| fixed pattern offset | <0.09% of full-scale (local), <0.57% (global) |
| pixel response non-uniformity | <0.57% of FS (local), <3.48% (global) |
| readout noise | 52e-, 550µV |
| signal swing | 1.3V |
| dynamic range | 67dB |
| dark signal | 2200e-/s, 23mV/s, 56 bit counts/s, 155pA/cm ² |
| power | 600mW |

Radiation tolerance specifications

| total dose radiation | >80 krad focal plane 30 krad logic; 80 krad with increased power consumption |
|----------------------|--|
| single-event latchup | immune until >11000 heavy ions/s/cm ² |
| single-event upsets | occur at >10 heavy ions/s/cm ² ; triple-protected long- term settings not affected |

| | IRIS-3 Executive Summary | Do. ref.: | P50314-IM- DL-019 2005/08/01 |
|----------|--|-----------|------------------------------------|
| imag | | Date. | 2003/08/01 |
| Imec | | Issue: | 2 |
| Authors: | Tom Torfs, Werner Ogiers, Thys Cronje | Page 8 of | 9 |

| Image buffer size | 50 uncompressed full frame images |
|-------------------|---|
| I/O interfaces | serial command and data, subset of IRIS-3 interfaces: RS-485 and TTC-B-01 |
| Lens | 12.2 mm, f/5, FOV 37.9x29° (modified VMC lens) |
| Housing | Aluminium, new design |
| Mass | 555g-563g |
| Supply voltage | 28V DC |
| Power consumption | 200 mA @ 28 V = 5.6W peak |
| | 115 mA @ 28 V = 3.2W idle |
| Temperature range | -50°C +65°C, operational and non-operational |
| Connectors | DSUB-9: power |
| | DSUB-25: signal I/O |

IRIS-3 camera (ICC) specifications